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"Like" us for updates on Montana Arts Council activities and opportunities, as well as information for and about artists, arts events and organizations across the state: www.facebook.com/pages/Montana-Arts-Council/347466251951287.

MAP workshops (from page 1)

There are also mentorship and internship opportunities. Workshops are held on weekends or evenings and are scheduled for once a month.

This program is specifically designed for visual artists, which includes individuals working in all media, from oils to glass, from leather to textiles and fibers, and from metal to photography. Artists need to be developing a body of work and have some computer skills.

The size of each group is kept small to ensure that artists receive the full benefits of this learning opportunity.

Exploring opportunities for market expansion

In addition to the instruction, MAP participants can qualify for market-expansion opportunities like the recent Tour of Excellence, a learning excursion that took artists to the Western Design Conference in Jackson, WY, this past September. Another opportunity is the Artist Gathering planned for Hamilton this coming Nov. 1-3.

MAP Coach Kris Komar is working with the Bitterroot Cultural Heritage Trust and a group of interested people to plan for this event, which last year featured 85 artists from across the state coming to the Flathead.

Jan Shanahan, Flathead area MAP coach has already begun workshops with the fourth MAP group to meet at the Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell. Other MAP coaches and their areas are:



Artist Stephanie Smith talks to a gallery owner at the 2012 Artist Gathering in Kalispell.

Four Corners-Springhill Cohort: Meagan and Michael Blessing (blessingfineart@bresnan.net) from Bozeman, are working with rural artists in the greater Gallatin Valley, reaching as far north as Wilsall.

Lincoln Cohort: Annie Allen (sunnybunny60@gmail.com) of Lincoln is meeting at her coffeehouse and gallery, Roasted, in Lincoln, with artists from that area, including Helena.

Bitterroot Cohort: Deb Essen (eccmontana@hotmail.com) of Victor and

Flori Engbrecht (flori@floriengbrecht.com) of Hamilton are meeting at the Ravalli County Economic Development Association headquarters in Hamilton. This is the fourth MAP group in this area.

Pintler Cohort: Sheri Jarvis (sherijarvis@ymail.com) from Butte is looking forward to working with rural artists in southwestern Montana, particularly Powell, Deer Lodge, and Silver Bow counties. This group's workshops begin March 8 and 9.

White Sulphur Springs Cohort: Fern Vinton (jovibo2004@yahoo.com) of White Sulphur Springs will meet with artists on March 23-24 from the areas in and around Meagher, Broadwater and Judith Basin counties.

Highline Cohort: Linda Short (art@lindashort.com) from Great Falls is contacting artists from the Chester-Havre area to form a group that will meet in Chester at the Liberty County Arts Center.

Mussellshell Valley Cohort: Tammy Zemliska (melstonemmartha@gmail.com) from Roundup is gathering another round of artists from the Roundup-Melstone area.

Although several of these groups have already started their work, there may still be room available for newcomers. Interested artists need to complete an application form that is available on the MAC website at www.art.mt.gov.

For more information, contact the coach in your area or Cindy Kittredge, MAC Folk Arts and Market Development Specialist, at 406-468-4078 or mtcreativearts@gmail.com.

Black Pinto Horse (from page 1)

"Watch the Birdie" is reminiscent of the old studio portraits taken of Native peoples in the late 1800s. The artist was commissioned to create the piece for the eighth annual Red Nation Film Festival by actress and executive director Jonelle Romero.

"Back in the '70s, I first met the actress when I was fortunate to work with her in the movie, 'A Girl Called Hatter Fox,'" recalls Yellow Bird. Their paths crossed again when Romero became an admirer of the artist's work. "When she asked me, I was delighted and thought, 'what a wonderful way to be a part of this important event.'"

While driving back to Montana from southern California, the artist also discovered that he had received the Artist in Business Leadership Fellowship from the First Peoples Fund in Rapid City, SD. The \$5,000 grant is designed "to cultivate entrepreneurial artists to a small business level through individualized professional development training, and working capital funds ... The fellowship also provides a focus on new work to stimulate

creativity and a renewal of energy in Native art expression."

Yellow Bird is a member of the Three Affiliated Tribes of Fort Berthold, ND – the Mandan, Arikara and Hidatsa – and grew up in White Shield, ND. He and his wife, Emily, moved to Great Falls in 2007 when he served as an artist-in-residence at Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art.

His work is on permanent display in the Volkenkunde Museum of the Netherlands and he has collectors worldwide. In 2010, the artist was awarded a National Native Creative Development grant by the Longhouse Educational Center in Olympia, WA.

The Holter Museum of Art in Helena is showcasing Yellow Bird's work through April, and his pieces were also selected for benefit auctions for Paris Gibson Square, the Missoula Art Museum and the Yellowstone Art Museum (Billings).

Learn more about the artist at blackpinto-horsefinearts.com.



Black Pinto Horse (aka Monte Yellow Bird Sr.) shows off first-place ribbon.

MIA to MAA

Oldest statewide arts organization locates in Great Falls

In 1948, Dr. H.G. Merriam, a literature professor at The University of Montana, and other like-minded people gathered to organize the Montana Institute of the Arts (MIA). At that time, no other organization for the arts existed.

Many local arts groups were started and became part of the institute, which enjoyed over 60 years of growth and had branch organizations in large and small Montana cities. These artists' groups represented writers, poets, painters, potters, musicians, photographers, sculptors, weavers and more.

However, the past two decades saw a precipitous decline in membership. As the years passed many branches faded as their efforts to establish local museums like Paris Gibson Square and the Yellowstone Art Center became successful. Other branches obtained their own non-profit status. Only one, the Great Falls Arts Association (GFAA), had a direct link to the institute.

Fourteen MIA members from the past gathered during an exhibition of works from the institute's permanent art collection, held last summer at the Montana Museum of Art and Culture (MMAC) in Missoula. This meeting changed the course of the MIA's history.

Great Falls artist Jean Price made a motion at the August closing reception at MMAC for the Great Falls Arts Association to receive the nonprofit status from the Montana Institute of the Arts, Inc.; the MIA's remaining funds would be gifted to the museum. The motion

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– Past MIA President Ron Paulick

passed, and was approved in December by members of the GFAA.

"The Montana Institute of the Arts, dysfunctional and nearly dissolved, needed to change" said past MIA and GFAA president Ron Paulick. "What that change will be is not known, but as all of those in the arts know, change is a necessary ingredient for artistic growth."

At the January general meeting, the new organization's members voted to change the name from the Montana Institute of the Arts, Inc. to the Montana Arts Association, Inc.

This new organization will have a closer relationship with Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art in Great Falls. Montana Arts Association meetings are open to all artists and those who are interested in art. Contact Ron Paulick at 406-453-4076 for more information.